

Senate Resolution 1187

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Thomas of the 54th, Kemp of the 46th, Weber of the 40th, Cagle of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and proclaiming March, 2006, American Red Cross
2 Month; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the essential, humanitarian role of the American Red Cross has never been more
4 relevant than in 2005, a year of unprecedented disasters, from the aftermath of the killer
5 tsunami in Asia and Africa to the deadly hurricanes and flooding that devastated New
6 Orleans and much of our Gulf Coast, affecting millions of people worldwide; and

7 WHEREAS, following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Georgia's Red Cross conducted the
8 largest disaster relief operation in state history and, with the support of caring Georgians,
9 distributed more than \$44 million in financial assistance to 43,000 Gulf Coast families who
10 turned to our state for help; and

11 WHEREAS, the Red Cross provided safe lodging for 3,100 hurricane evacuees in 22
12 shelters, served more than 400,000 meals and snacks, and gave health and emotional support
13 to nearly 21,000 people devastated by the hurricanes; and

14 WHEREAS, last year, the Red Cross also responded to more than 3,100 other disasters in
15 Georgia, ranging from floods and tornadoes to house and apartment fires; faithfully fulfilled
16 its national and state responsibilities for feeding, clothing, and sheltering disaster victims;
17 and provided blood, first aid, health care, and counseling in times of crisis; and

18 WHEREAS, although the Red Cross is not a government agency, it collaborates closely with
19 Georgia's emergency planning community to prepare for and respond to emergencies of all
20 types and leads the way in helping Georgia's families become safer, healthier, and better
21 prepared to face the unexpected—natural and manmade disasters or the threat of pandemic
22 influenza; and

1 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross provides the only worldwide
2 communications link between service members and their loved ones—16,300 of Georgia's
3 military families turned to the Red Cross last year to relay news of births, deaths, serious
4 illnesses, and other urgent circumstances; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's refugees who lose touch with loved ones due to changing world
6 conditions can also turn to the Red Cross for help; and

7 WHEREAS, the Red Cross is saving lives in Georgia every day, as exemplified by the Red
8 Cross Blood Services' collection of more than 294,000 pints of blood from Georgia donors
9 in 2005, who in turn saved more than 880,000 lives through their selfless generosity; and

10 WHEREAS, Red Cross instructors also trained more than 190,000 of our citizens in
11 life-saving techniques with first aid, CPR, automated external defibrillators, lifeguarding,
12 water safety, and HIV/AIDS prevention education; and

13 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross, celebrating its 125th year in 2006, continues to
14 channel the compassion of countless Georgians who support its life-saving mission with their
15 blood and financial contributions, and the nearly 22,000 Red Cross volunteers in Georgia
16 who freely give their time and talent to ease and prevent human suffering; and

17 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize the contributions of American Red Cross
18 members across the State of Georgia, including those who are visiting the capitol on March
19 14, 2006.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
21 join the President of the United States, the Governor of Georgia, and government officials
22 across the country in proclaiming March, 2006, American Red Cross Month and call upon
23 all citizens to support and honor this organization and recognize its proud heritage of service.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Red Cross.